(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure no shortage of money for Doordarshan Channel-3?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) An additional requirement of funds has been projected to the Ministry of Finance as part of the normal mid-budgetary review to enable Doordarshan to give an impetus to its various developmental activities including the DD-3 channel.

High-cost power proposals

132. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the Financial Express report (2nd October, 1995) that the Ministry of Power has been preferring high-cost Power proposals to the offers of internationally renowned companies willing to supply power at cheaper rates and lower capital costs;

(b) if so, the details of the two sets of offers; and

(c) the reasons for this inexplicable preference of Ministry of Power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An evaluation of these offers can be made by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA)/Ministry of Power only after firm proposals are received from the concerned State Governments/State Electricity Boards/ Organisations for setting up a power plant at specific location, based on these offers. The concerned State Government/ State Electricity Boards/Organisations have to first of all evaluate these offers and, if found techno-economically suitable, come up with firm proposals before the CEA. The Government of India's involvement could come only thereafter. The Government however, ensures reasonableness of cost and tariff of private power projects through scrutiny at the level of State Electricity Boards/ State Governments and techno-economic appraisal by the Central Electricity Authority. The cost of private sector power projects cleared by the CEA so far, are found to be comparable to similar projects coming up in the public sector in a similar time frame as well as similar projects coming up in other developing countries. To introduce further competitiveness of prices, Competitive bidding has been made mandatory from 18.2.1995.

Revamping Power Policy

133. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government have revamped the power policy and if so, what are the salient features of the same;

(b) whether Government have clearly defined the scope of domestic private sector vis-a-vis foreign participation in setting up new power projects; and

(c) whether Government have also laid guidelines regarding power tariffs and counter guarantees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government announced the private power policy in October, 1991 which has been amended from time to time. Salient features of the policy are at statement (*see* below).

(c) Yes, Sir. Government have laid down norms for calculation of tariff vide Notification dated 30th March, 1992 with subsequent amendments dated 19th January, 1994, 24th August, 1994, 12th January, 1995 and 6th November, 1995. The Government have also laid down general parameters for issue of counter guarantee